

From: Bruce McDiffett
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I'd like to express my extreme personal and professional disappointment at what I deeply believe will be the almost total ineffectiveness of the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement agreement.

You might just as well sentence a serial killer to probation, with the stern warning to not kill the victims again.

As a computer designer, I've had the opportunity to work with Microsoft since the late 1970's. I've watched them stifle technical innovation for almost a quarter century now. For nearly 25 years, regardless of their corporate size, they have consistently shown their only interest is maximizing their corporate profit by any means, legal or illegal.

Microsoft has indeed made a bunch of money for some people. So does dumping toxic waste into the environment. Why should Microsoft be treated differently than anyone else, simply because they've made a lot of money?

As a revealing exercise, consider how much human effort is wasted by Microsoft software each year. Assuming 100,000,000 PC's running MS software, and also assuming a week of unnecessary downtime each year (a conservative estimate), every year we have almost 2 million man-years of human life squandered - simply thrown away. This is technical innovation? This is business leadership? No, this is an appalling disregard for human life. And this tyrannical contempt for the lives of the people is made possible by Microsoft's monopoly.

Our country was founded to defend the people from tyrants. And though the founding fathers of our country believed in market freedoms, they believed more in the power of our government to protect the public interest. That's why we have a federal government, and not a federal marketplace. Please, have the courage to create a settlement agreement that will actually protect the American people.

Millions of us are depending on you.

Sincerely,
Bruce McDiffett

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